

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 02936 151158Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 071554

O 150938Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3688

INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

COMIPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAIGON 2936

EXDIS - MILITARY COMMANDS HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON, USDAO SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG
14 MAR 75 REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE

S E C R E T NHA TRANG 0161

DAO FOR AOSOP/IX-IS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS/ PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY SITREP

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH II CORPS CHIEF OF STAFF COL. LE KHAC LY
IN PLEIKU THIS MORNING (MAR 14) HE EMPHASIZED THE FOLLOWING:

A) THE COMMUNIST FORCES IN BAN ME THUOT CONSIST OF THE
NVA 316TH DIVISION FROM LAOS (ITS 148TH REGT WAS CONFIRMED
AND PRISONERS SAID ITS OTHER TWO REGT'S, THE 174TH
AND 335TH, WERE IN THE AREA) AND ELEMENTS OF THE B-3
FRONT. COL. LY REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO THE 198TH
SAPPER REGT AND THE 25TH REGT.

B) THE 53RD REGT (MINUS 1 BN IN QUANG DUC) WAS STILL AT
BAN ME THUOT EAST AIRFIELD BUT HAD SUFFERED VERY

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HEAVY (50 PERCENT) CASUALTIES. THE 45TH REGT (EXCEPT

FOR 200 MEN) HAD ALL BEEN AIRLIFTED TO PHUOC AN DISTRICT YESTERDAY AND THE NEW CP OF THE 23RD DIVISION HAD ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED THERE. THE REST OF THE 45TH WERE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE THIS MORNING. THIS AFTERNOON OR, POSSIBLY, TOMORROW MORNING, THE 44TH REGT WOULD BE LIFTED FROM PLEIKU TO JOIN THE DIV HQS AND THE 45TH IN PHUOC AN . THE 21ST RANGERS WERE IN PLACE ABOUT 20 KMS EAST OF BAN ME THUOT ON HIGHWAY 21.

C) THERE WAS CURRENTLY NO COMMUNICATION WITH ANYONE INSIDE BAN ME THUOT CITY.

D) WHEN THE 44TH WAS IN PLACE, THE DRIVE TO RETAKE BAN ME THUOT WOULD BEGIN. THE 45TH WAS SCHEDULED TO MOVE STRAIGHT DOWN QL-14 TO THE CITY. THE 21ST RANGERS WOULD MOVE IN AN ARC TO THE NORTH OF THE CITY AND ENTER FROM THAT DIRECTION WHILE THE 53RD WOULD EXPAND ITS HOLD ON THE VICINITY OF BAN ME THUOT EAST AIRPORT AND TAKE THE HIGH GROUND JUST TO THE SOUTH. THE 44TH REGT WOULD BE HELD IN RESERVE AT PHUOC AN.

E) THE ENTIRE OPERATION AND ALL ARVN TROOPS IN DARLAC WOULD BE UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE 23RD DIVISION COMMANDER, BRIG GEN LE TRUNG TUONG.

F) LY CONFIRMED THAT BUON HO HAD FALLEN, PRESUMABLY TO ELEMENTS OF THE NVA 320TH DIV. ALTHOUGH HE HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF THAT.

2. FOR BATTLE ON QL-19 IN EASTERN PLEIKU SEE NHA TRANG'S 0160 SPEAR UNQUOTE
LEHMNAA

SECRET

NNN

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